



In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Serial Number: 09/081,872
Appn. Filed: 05/20/98
Applicant(s): John H. Messing
Appn. Title: Electronic Signature Method
Examiner: Andrew Caldwell
Group Art Unit: 2137

Mailed: September 22, 2004

At: Tucson, Arizona

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, Va. 22313-1450

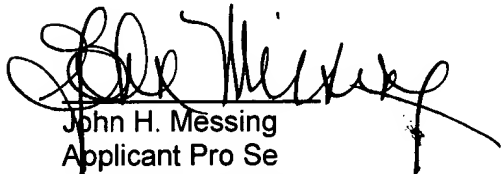
Sir:

Applicant does not acquiesce to any inference or presumption drawn from the Examiner's purported statement of reasons for allowance. The claims that were discussed in the Examiner's statement of reasons, nos. 127-129, were not allowed. Completely separate claims, nos. 130-132, were allowed, by separate action, and there was no incorporation by reference of the statement of reasons or a similar statement of reasons made in connection with claims nos. 130-132. Therefore, there is no Statement of Reasons for Allowance properly in the file upon which to comment.

The reference to Kocher as prior art is also misplaced. Kocher is not prior art in any respect upon any aspect of the invention. Kocher deals with timestamping, not signatures. The difference is as great as that between a worker's timecard that is punched daily and the same worker's bank checks that must be signed. The purposes and requirements between the documents and processes are vastly different and not comparable.

The Examiner's statement could also be incorrectly construed to imply that each and every allowed claim requires all of the features recited by the Examiner. The contrary should be evident from the claims themselves and the Examiner's Office Actions and the Applicant's replies thereto.

Very respectfully,

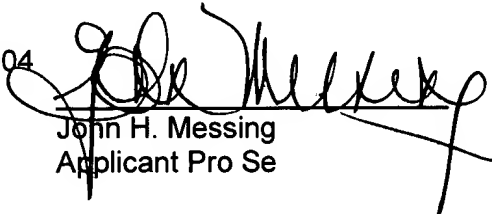


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Certificate of mailing: I certify that on the date below I will deposit this Comment on Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance and attachments if any in the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to:

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 22, 2004



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